

the decorative restorations are the removal of plaster and whitewash from an open oak roof of fifteenth century, ornamented with moulded ribs and bosses, painted in red and yellow; the introduction of Powell's quarries in eastern triplet of chancel, the floor of which is decorated with encaustic tiles from Messrs. Chamberlain's manufactory, Worcester. The altar step consists of veined Devonshire marble, surrounding encaustic tiling. The reredos is formed of carved oak panelling of great antiquity, brought from Rouen, gilt and painted. The walls of sanctuary are powdered with golden stars and fleur-de-lys, and the roof is covered with white and vermillion painting, in imitation of fan tracery on a blue ground with golden stars at intervals, — a design copied from chapter house of Exeter Cathedral. The windows throughout the church are stencilled in patterns, from ancient models, in imitation of flowered quarries. The original circular semi-Norman font, with column and base of Purbeck marble, had been removed and broken, but now stands restored near principal entrance. — In addition to the fortifications lately completed at Bovisand, Picklecombe-point, and Drake's Island, as defences for Stonehouse harbour, a new fort has been erected just above the site of the old Long-room Barracks, at the Victualling-yard point, which will render complete the defence of the Sound and the entrance to Hamoaze. The new building is called "The Prince of Wales' Redoubt." The external walls, towards the land, are 7 feet thick, and musket proof, and, instead of being built up perpendicularly from the ditch, are curved. On the sea-side the walls are 8 feet thick, and considered to be bomb-proof. The fort has been two years in erection, and the total cost will be about 15,000*l*. It is constructed principally of dressed limestone. The cheeks of the embrasures, piers of entrance-gates, and other parts, are of dressed granite. Mr. George Roach, of Plymouth, is the contractor, and the work has proceeded under the inspection of Mr. Frederick Burgoyne, Government foreman of works. — Improvements have been made in Ramsey, Isle of Man, by the extension of the quay upwards 100 yards, to accommodate wind-bound vessels. — On Wednesday week, Trinity Church, Runcorn, after having been beautified and enlarged, was re-opened. A chancel and a stained-glass window have been presented by Sir R. Brooke, Bart. — The laying of first stone of bridge over lake at Welbeck Abbey took place on Thursday week. The arch is of iron, with iron battlements upon stone buttresses. The building is undertaken by Mr. Bell. The first stone was laid by Viscountess Shannon: present, the Duke of Portland and others. — At a meeting of the Ashton guardians on Thursday last, the building committee recommended that the amount to be expended on their new workhouse be fixed prior to advertising for plans, and that the board employ the architect to carry out his plans at the rate of 5 per cent. on the outlay: no premium for second best. They recommended that the sum to be expended be limited to 6,000*l*. Mr. Ousey cunningly suggested that it would be better to give a premium for the plans; "they would be able to manage the erection quite as economically as though the architect were employed to carry out his own plans." Resolution to that effect lost by a majority of one. Agreed that the sum be 6,000*l*. — Notice has been given of an application to Parliament, by the Carlisle corporation, to take possession of the gas works there, and to work them for the benefit of the city. The Bill, says the local journal, will most likely pass without opposition; and it will undoubtedly confer a benefit on the inhabitants of Carlisle. — The town councils of Dumfries and Maxwelltown are to bring a Bill into Parliament authorizing a supply of water from Lochrutton. Mr. Gale, of Glasgow, was elected engineer, and Mr. Newall, local engineer. — The new schools at Elson, near Gosport, were opened on Thursday last, on which occasion full service was performed at the church, and the new organ was played for the first time. The schools and master's house cost rather more than 500*l*. in building, and will afford room for 130 children. The parsonage-house will shortly be commenced. The architect is Mr. John Colson, who also designed the case for the organ.

SPANISH TOWN CATHEDRAL, JAMAICA.

We inserted a communication from a correspondent in August last (p. 377), headed, "Architects and Architecture in Jamaica," setting forth that a gentleman who came to the island as an organist, music-master, &c., not finding his success so great as was anticipated, had turned architect and civil engineer, and was engaged in erecting a chancel to the cathedral church. It further said, "it has now leaked out that our architect has been, and still is, extracting from the pockets of the builder either 5 or 7½ per cent., besides the commission he receives from the parish." In reply to this we have received a letter (previously addressed to us in the *Jamaica Despatch*), signed "J. Calvert, superintending architect of the cathedral, Jamaica," enclosing a declaration signed, "Richard Cowan, sole contractor for the masonry; James Campbell, sole contractor for carpenter's and joiner's work; James Jones, carpenter; and Joseph Waldron, builder;" denying that the architect has ever demanded, or received from them, any commission or allowance. Mr. Calvert says:—"One could scarcely believe your correspondent had read Vitruvius's requisites for an architect, or he would remember he says, among other things, he should be 'a musician' — 'the head and front of my offending.' When the immortal astronomer Herschel could no longer eke out an existence as a poor organist and musician, did his knowledge of that heavenly art, music, render him blind to the glorious harmony of the starry world?"

I sent in designs in competition with the whole island, without friendship or favour, and regret I had no assistance whatever, as he insinuates I had. The building is nearly up to the roof, and is about 50 feet long by 50 feet wide, with side aisles and clerestory windows, on moulded arches and clustered columns, with carved stone corbel angels supporting an elaborately carved roof. The whole on a foundation of great strength, 15 feet deep, and I trust will stand when my enemies are forgotten, and I a 'musician' in the choir above.

I refer you to the declaration, in denial of the assertion of my 'extortion,' and wish you could but enjoy with me a few days superintendence of negro workmen, on a building in Jamaica, with the pleasant warmth of a mid-day sun at least 107 degrees Fahrenheit; you would find, without any clerk of the works, 5 per cent. on an average expenditure of 20*l*. a-week, a splendid remuneration for the entire occupation of your utmost exertions, and I doubt not would soon grow fat, and become the envy of every hungry architect, as is supposed to be—Your humble servant."

By the same mail we received a statement from our former correspondent, containing the grounds of his assertion, but we cannot give place to it in the face of the rigorously worded declaration referred to.

DESIGN IN MANUFACTURE.

JUSTLY does your correspondent, "C. E. M.," in a late number of your journal, condemn the prodigious floral ornamentation of the various articles in the Birmingham exhibition, executed as like unto nature as their various materials will permit. This error, arising from an imperfect education in art, and an injudicious striving after novelty, is the evident characteristic of the so-called "art-manufactures" of the day. It requires but little study, and less design, to copy the first plant that comes to hand, without adaptation, whether suitable or not to the purpose required. It is the work of a mechanic, and not of an artist, and elevated but in the degree of execution above that of the savage in the South Sea Islands, to carve the handle of a knife into the semblance of a spike of maize, and when the noble task has been accomplished, the implement is but rendered perfectly unfit for its purpose. I remember not long since to have seen engraved with commendation a "high art" salt-cellar, which reflected no great credit on its compiler (for design it cannot be called), as it consisted merely of a sea-shell reversed and mounted upon a piece of coral. Too often is practical utility disregarded, and all purity of outline lost in an unpruned luxuriance of foliage. Nor is it only with

botanical specimens that every domestic utensil is bedizened, under the mistaken idea of ornament; but the human figure and animals, executed in the worst style, are crowded into every possible position, as if no opportunity of degrading them should be lost. It does not seem to be generally understood, that art is a conventional treatment of nature, and not a literal imitation of her forms; for while she must be foiled if she attempt to rival their delicacy and compete on the same ground, yet there is a character and dignity of her own with which she may invest them,—an impress of thought which should be stamped upon the types of her choice.

It is to be hoped, then, that this botanical fever will soon subside, or at least cease to be preached to the people as the noblest realization of "high art." J. P. SKIDDON.

MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

IN a recent case the defendant, Mr. Brass, a builder in the city, was sued in the Sheriff's Court by four of his workmen (carpenters) named Lockyer, Goddard, Payne, and Thomas, under the following circumstances:—

The plaintiffs stated that they were discharged on the Saturday, and being unable to get their tools they went for them on the Monday morning; they accordingly claimed a quarter of a day's wages for fetching them, and a quarter of a day for grinding them—the latter being a custom adopted throughout the trade. They also contended that Mr. Brass had no right to discharge them, as they were taken on by his foreman, who said it was his own job.

The plaintiff said he resisted this claim entirely on principle. He discharged the plaintiffs for neglect of duty. They left off at four o'clock, and were paid their full wages up to half-past five; they had ample time, therefore, to collect their tools.

His Honour said, although the foreman might be authorized, as the agent, to take on workmen, that did not take away the right of the master to discharge them; and with regard to the sum claimed for grinding tools, although such a principle might exist in some instances, there was no such custom in law. The plaintiffs must therefore be nonsuited.

EXPOSITION OF FRENCH INDUSTRIAL ART.

No. 13, George-street, Hanover-square, with its adjacent premises, contains at this moment a beautiful and costly exposition of French industrial art, sufficient to make our manufacturers tremble for the probable expatriation of some of the prizes proposed to be given in 1851. Mons. Sallandrouze de Lamorin, a manufacturer of distinguished position in France, projected and arranged this exhibition with the view of showing the English manufacturers who their opponents will be.

Tapestry, china, oak carvings, bronzes, carpets, are amongst the works exhibited, and will demand our notice. We would merely remark now, to those who would institute comparisons with works at home, that the price, and the circumstances under which many of these extraordinary things were manufactured, should not be left out of view. They must not, for example, ask where we can parallel that magnificent piece of Gobelin's tapestry, presenting an incident in the life of Gustavus Vasa, if we mistake not, or the large flower-painted vase in the centre,—without remembering that the price put on the latter is six hundred pounds—the price of the first, four thousand pounds, and that Government took the risk of their production.

THE "SAINTE CHAPELLE," PARIS.—During the last week an immense crowd has assembled day after day at the Palais de Justice, to view the restored decorations of the Sainte Chapelle. From ten in the morning till four in the afternoon they were slowly passing in, ranged in files, each in the order of arrival. From 3,000 to 4,000 persons daily have had admittance. On Sunday last the President, in another chamber of the building, distributed the prizes awarded at the late Exposition.